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Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 May 2015, addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 21 April 2015, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/69/878-S/2015/267), which, yet again, contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertion regarding the issuance of an illegal notice to airmen, it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan Advisory Airspace, including issuance of notices to airmen, are carried out by the relevant authorities of the State in accordance with article 3 of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Similarly, the assertion raised in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another attempt aimed at distorting the facts and the realities of the island. As noted in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory, national airspace and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As for the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan Area Control Centre and Airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and permission of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Civil Aviation Department, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport as well as using the airspace of the Turkish Republic of

Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan Area Control Centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara Area Control Centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2014 alone, the number of passengers that used Ercan Airport stood at almost 3,250,000, while the projected number of passengers for 2015 is 3,500,000. Moreover, in 2014, around 25,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure and 200,000 planes used the Ercan Advisory Airspace. These numbers are expected to be around 27,000 and 210,000, respectively, for 2015. In this respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety, in full conformity with the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false statements, to confer legitimacy upon the long-defunct "Republic of Cyprus" are futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed contribute to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease its hostile acts against the Turkish Cypriot people. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two Constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to call on the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive propaganda tactics and return to the negotiating table, as also called for in the latest Security Council resolution on Cyprus, resolution 2197 (2015), so that the current window of opportunity for a fair and durable comprehensive settlement can be seized. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dâná**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2015/331

Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 2158 (2014), in which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) through written reports delivered every 120 days. The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 April 2015.

II. Political and security overview

A. Political developments

2. Following resolution of the political crisis that paralysed the Federal Government of Somalia for four months, Somalia's political process regained momentum from February onwards. The formation of a new Cabinet dominated the Government's agenda for the month of January. After protracted delays, Parliament on 9 February approved the Cabinet of Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, consisting of 1 Deputy Prime Minister, 25 Ministers (three female), 26 Deputy Ministers (two female) and 14 State Ministers (none female).

3. In April, the Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs initiated the selection process for members of the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Boundaries and Federation Commission. Electoral preparations remain behind schedule, however.

4. On 20 January, the Interim Jubba Administration, with support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Federal Government, launched a process to establish a regional assembly. The assembly, to be inaugurated in May 2015, comprises 65 assembly representatives chosen from their districts through nominations from clan elders, and 10 more selected by the leadership of the Interim Jubba Administration. Some subclans however criticized the process for lack of transparency and inclusivity.

5. In the Interim South-West Administration, President Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan named a 63-member Cabinet on 3 March. Appointees included two former leaders of the rival "six-region" South-West State supporters, four women, and representatives of minority communities. However, formation of the regional

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assembly was delayed by differences over its size and whether representation would be based on region or clan. Meanwhile on 27 January, in Afgooye, the Interim South-West Administration brokered a ceasefire between the Bimal and Habar-Ghidir subclans as part of a wider agreement to end protracted armed conflict in the Merca area.

6. In the central regions, a two-month reconciliation conference, initiated by clan representatives in Dhuusamarreeb, Galguduud Region, was concluded by the Federal President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, in March. The President launched a state formation conference in Adaado on 16 April. One faction of Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a announced that it would boycott the process until the Federal Government and Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a resolved their differences.

7. In Puntland, President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali "Gaas" signed a law establishing the region's Election Commission on 6 January, as part of an effort to restart the democratization process suspended in July 2013. On 12 April, following two days of talks, the Federal Prime Minister and the President of Puntland issued a statement including an agreement that Puntland would contribute 3,000 troops to the Somali national army. They also recommitted the Federal Government and the "Puntland Administration" to the implementation of earlier agreements, and acknowledged the need for the Federal Government to consult the states on federal legislation and commissions.

8. On 27 February, scheduled talks between the Federal Government and "Somaliland" in Turkey failed to start, owing to the rejection by "Somaliland" of members of the Government delegation born in "Somaliland". Opposition parties formed an alliance on 4 March to oppose the bid by President Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud "Silanyo" to extend his term of office beyond June 2015. Tension with the government heightened after the National Electoral Commission announced on 9 March the indefinite postponement of presidential and parliamentary elections. The ruling Kulmiye party expressed its readiness to consult the opposition on the way forward, and urged Parliament to approve important legislation on the political participation of women and minorities. The Commission subsequently further announced that the elections should be possible in June 2016.

B. Security developments

9. The security situation remained volatile with sporadic attacks and continued use of suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices by Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu and the regions. On 20 April 2015, a minivan belonging to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) carrying United Nations national and international personnel was attacked by a suicide bomber in front of a United Nations compound in Garoowe, Puntland. Four UNICEF staff members, two security guards, and the suicide bomber died as a result of the explosion, while five other UNICEF staff members, four security guards, and one bystander sustained various degrees of injuries. An Al-Shabaab military spokesperson, Sheikh Abu Muscab, and the official spokesperson, Sheikh Ali Dhere, claimed responsibility for the latest attack against their "enemy the United Nations" in media outlets.

10. The massacre of 147 students at Garissa University College, Kenya, on 2 April is a tragic reminder that the threat posed by Al-Shabaab is not confined to Somalia,

but regional. At the same time, the crisis in Yemen has the potential to further destabilize the region and open a corridor for jihadist movements through Somalia.

11. In Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab attacks continued. Casualties included government officials, civilians and security personnel. On 20 February, 28 people, including the Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu and two Members of Parliament, were killed in an attack on the Central Hotel. On 27 March, Al-Shabaab fighters stormed the Maka al-Mukarama Hotel after a suicide car bomb explosion; the attackers held hostages during a 17-hour siege before the Somali national security forces regained control of the location. At least 14 people were killed, including Yusuf Mohamed Ismail, the Somali Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva. On 14 April, Al-Shabaab carried out another complex attack at the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, which resulted in eight fatalities and at least 12 people injured. Targeted assassinations of government officials and security personnel also continued.

12. In southern and central Somalia, Al-Shabaab continued to target pro-government forces and regional administrations, and also to hinder civilian movements along main supply routes. In Baidoa, three Muslim clerics critical of Al-Shabaab were assassinated in January and February. On 12 March, the residence of the President of the Interim South-West Administration in Baidoa was attacked, resulting in the death of three attackers and one soldier of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

13. Al-Shabaab's Chief of External Operations, Yusuf Dheeq, and his immediate successor, Adan Garaar, were reportedly killed in separate drone strikes in the Bay and Gedo regions on 1 February and 12 March. On 22 March, AMISOM and Interim Jubba Administration forces recaptured Kudhaa Island in Juba Hoose Region. In Puntland, security forces continued an intense offensive against Al-Shabaab in the Galgalo mountains area, attracting reprisal attacks. On 10 January and 3 February, two police stations in Boosaaso were attacked by Al-Shabaab fighters, resulting in injuries to three police officers.

14. In February, attacks by Dulbahante militia supporting the separatist "Khatumo" movement against "Somaliland" forces in the Sool and Sanaag regions resulted in the death of one "Somaliland" and two Khatumo combatants; the security situation stabilized in March, however.

15. In the central regions, the establishment of federal administrations led to clashes between pro-Federal Government forces and Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a, and also between clan militias. In Galguduud, clashes between Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a and pro-Federal Government militias on 10 and 12 February in Guriel town resulted in at least 25 fatalities and 56 injuries; a ceasefire was signed on 5 March. Separately, inter-clan clashes were reported in Hiraan Region between the Xawadle and Dhir/Fiqi-Omar clans on 20 and 21 January, and the Jajeele and Makane subclans on 6 and 7 February. These incidents and other clan violence, particularly in Hiraan, Shabelle Hoose and Juba Hoose regions, resulted in 60 civilian deaths and 63 injuries.

III. Support to peacebuilding and State-building efforts

A. Provision of United Nations good offices

16. My Special Representative, Nicholas Kay, continued to provide good offices, political support, and strategic and policy advice to the Federal Government and to Somali regional leaders. He regularly engaged with federal institutions in Mogadishu, visited Garoowe, Kismaayo and Baidoa for consultations with regional leaders, and provided good offices to relevant parties in the contentious central regions state formation process. He also focused on advocating a common approach to the implementation of the Federal Government's "Vision 2016". In a public statement on 18 March, he noted the commitment of all the leaders to deliver on "Vision 2016" and not to extend the current mandate of the Federal Government beyond September 2016, as well as to fast-track important milestones, including the appointment of members of the National Independent Electoral Commission and the constitutional review process.

B. Coordination of international support and alignment of international efforts

17. The "New Deal" Compact remains the primary mechanism for coordinating international efforts in Somalia. The Federal Government reasserted its commitment to ensuring that 2015 would be "the year of delivery". Following the formation of the new Federal Government Cabinet, a Cabinet committee was established under the Prime Minister to advance implementation of the Compact. On the basis of the conclusions of the committee, the Federal Government undertook visits to Baidoa, Kismaayo and Garoowe to discuss the role of the New Deal in addressing the needs of the interim regional administrations.

18. On 23 March, the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility approved six United Nations joint programmes submitted to the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund and five programmes submitted to the World Bank Partner Trust Fund on peacebuilding and State-building goals, a crucial step towards accelerating delivery of tangible results through the Compact. The participation of emerging regions in this endeavour is a noteworthy and constructive development.

19. My Special Representative continued to coordinate international support to Somalia's political progress. UNSOM coordinated several joint statements by international partners and facilitated international participation at key events, such as the launch of the Central Regions state formation process in Cadaado. He held bilateral discussions with the Governments of the United States of America and Qatar during visits to Washington, D.C. (4-6 February) and Doha (16-17 February).

C. Stabilization

20. In a positive development, the Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs established a new "stabilization unit" to oversee support to the 13 districts most recently liberated from Al-Shabaab. Monthly coordination meetings with stabilization partners focused on how to hold relevant Somali and international partner entities

more accountable for their contributions, and on improving research and analysis. To the latter end, participants collectively developed political, governance, rule of law, and socioeconomic profiles for each district. UNSOM continued to encourage the creation of a Cabinet committee on stabilization, as well as outreach to interim regional administrations.

21. As at the end of April 2015, all of the 13 districts had some level of caretaker administration. In four districts, there were reports of police deployment, although this was confirmed by the Federal Government in only two, Xuddur and Baraawe. In several districts, there were reports of civilian volunteers and militia acting as police and, in two other districts, of the presence of judges, prosecutors, lawyers or judicial chairs. Meanwhile, UNSOM received reports of human rights violations in 6 of the 13 districts (Baraawe, Buloburde, Jalalaqsi, Tayeeglow, Waajid and Xuddur) including 11 cases of extrajudicial killings.

22. Some form of health service was reported in 7 of the 13 districts, and functioning primary schools in 5. In all districts where there has been food distribution, there were reports of the population returning to urban areas and food prices decreasing. In Buloburde, however, starvation attributed to economic blockage by Al-Shabaab reportedly caused six deaths. Access to water and sanitation remained a concern in all districts. Some economic activity was reported in most districts, owing to community mobilization and sometimes capital from the diaspora. Quick-impact projects were reported in five districts targeted for stabilization.

D. Inclusive politics

Development of a federal system

23. The Federal Government initiated dialogue with leaders of existing and emerging regional administrations. From 4 to 6 February 2015, the first meeting of senior federal and regional leaders on federal issues was held in Mogadishu. In attendance were the Federal President, the Federal Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Federal Parliament, Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawaari, the President of Puntland, the President of the Interim South-West Administration, and the Leader of the Interim Jubba Administration, Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Islam "Madobe". Discussions focused on building the federal system, centre-state relations, the New Deal Compact, the "Vision 2016" programme, state participation in key national bodies, and the national security forces. A second meeting was held in Garoowe from 29 April to 1 May. Meanwhile, UNSOM, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of the Interior, launched the first phase of a nation-wide civic education communications campaign to inform Somali citizens about federalism and the State-building process. The campaign will continue for the rest of 2015 and also focus on reconciliation, the constitutional process and democratization.

Constitutional review process

24. The constitutional review process saw new momentum following the inauguration of the new government in February 2015. The new Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, the Parliamentary Oversight Committee, and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission held several meetings in

February to finalize their respective roles and responsibilities. The three institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on 9 March. On 19 March the Oversight Committee formally initiated the constitutional review process, by instructing the Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission to review chapters 1 and 4 of the Provisional Federal Constitution. The Oversight Committee also initiated work on its own report on contentious issues in the Provisional Federal Constitution that will need to be considered in more detail.

25. The United Nations integrated constitutional team provided support for the above-mentioned processes, including facilitating planning activities, and began to provide capacity-building support for the establishment of the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission. UNSOM, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP formed a working group to ensure that Somali women's voices are heard during the review process.

Preparations for elections

26. On 11 February, Parliament adopted the bill on the National Independent Electoral Commission, which it drafted with expert advice from the UNSOM integrated electoral support group. The law establishes an independent electoral management body comprising nine commissioners, of whom at least two should be women, and a secretariat. The bill stipulates that the Commission will have its own budget to be drawn from the national budget and the powers to appoint its staff, set up local offices in the country as appropriate, and determine the electoral timeline.

27. Following the issuance of a vacancy announcement for positions on the National Independent Electoral Commission, on 6 April, the Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs set up a seven-member selection committee that will select and submit 27 candidates to the Council of Ministers, from which the latter will draw a short list of nine names to be tabled in Parliament for vetting and confirmation. UNSOM, together with UNDP Somalia, is setting up interim office space for the Commission in order to ensure that it becomes operational upon its appointment.

28. UNSOM is also in discussions with the Federal Parliament and the Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs on providing technical support in relation to the drafting of the electoral law and the consultations process. A draft Political Parties Law is due to be tabled in Parliament in May.

E. Rule of law and security institutions

Security sector assistance and reform

29. On 26 March, the Defence Working Group under the New Deal structure held its first meeting since November 2014. Discussions focused on the Guulwade (Victory) Plan of the Federal Government, developed with technical assistance from UNSOM. The plan outlines the Somali national army's arms and equipment needs for improved joint operations, consistent with the AMISOM concept of operations, and provides a framework for the first phase of longer-term development of the national army. The plan was presented by the Ministry of Defence and endorsed at the meeting of the Working Group on Peacebuilding and State-building Goal 2 (security) in Mogadishu on 23 April.

30. At the same meeting, the strategic plan of the Commission on Regional Militia Integration, established on 26 March, was presented, outlining the proposed integration of regional forces into federal security structures. UNSOM is providing strategic advice and support to the work of the Commission to facilitate the development of institutional links between the Federal Government and the interim regional administrations.

31. Under the Guulwade Plan, a total of 10,900 national army troops, comprising units from the regions, will receive support from international partners for participation in joint operations with AMISOM and capacity-building as part of development of the army. The figure does not include the 3,000 troops from Puntland due to be integrated into the national army, which are fighting Al-Shabaab in the Galgalo mountains. Alternative arrangements will be needed to enable those troops to receive international support.

32. UNSOM provided advice on a recruitment strategy for female officers, a general order prohibiting the recruitment of underage personnel, legal frameworks governing the defence institutions, and a Ministry of Defence development plan. UNSOM also coordinated international assistance for the Somali national army, and continued to urge security sector donors to align their offers of assistance with the priorities of the Federal Government.

33. A total of 13,829 Somali national army and 5,134 Somali police force personnel are now biometrically registered in the human resources system. The payment of 9,495 army stipends, funded by the United States, began in April.

34. With UNSOM support, Puntland authorities initiated a capacity-building project to establish unified, capable, accountable and rights-based security institutions, and to develop security links with the Federal Government. A Somali security and justice sector public expenditure review was undertaken by the Government, the World Bank and UNSOM.

35. UNSOM assisted the Federal Government in its first steps towards establishing a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system, in accordance with international standards and sanctions obligations. Construction of armouries and facilities for the safe storage of weapons and explosives continued, together with efforts to develop personnel capacity in record-keeping and physical management of weapons. The Federal Government received support in drafting their arms control report, submitted on 30 March to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009).

Police

36. In an important development, in March the Federal Government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Interim Jubba Administration and the Interim South-West Administration on the establishment of regional police in their respective regions. UNSOM and AMISOM police will provide technical advice and monitor the recruiting, vetting, training and deployment of 600 officers for each region. The joint undertaking by UNSOM and AMISOM police followed a joint visit by the United Nations Police Adviser and the African Union Police Commissioner to Somalia in February, which led to consensus on shared priorities and closer collaboration between AMISOM and UNSOM police personnel.

37. As part of efforts to operationalize the Somali police force headquarters, and with support from the Government of Japan, the United Nations continued to implement a project to provide reliable radio communications in Mogadishu and parts of the southern and central regions. This included two 10-day training courses and donation of a final shipment of communications equipment and 56 vehicles, funded by the Government of Japan at a cost of US$5.75 million. Equipment provided was distributed to the Interim Jubba Administration, Puntland, the Interim South-West Administration, the Central Regions and Mogadishu, consistent with agreements made between the Federal Government and the interim regional administrations to cooperate in establishing regional police organizations.

38. The United Nations Mine Action Service also supported the Somali police force in the building of counter-improvised explosive device capacities. As of February, two Somali police force teams were able to respond independently to improvised explosive devices in Mogadishu. The police force also maintained 10 explosive ordnance disposal teams in Beledweyne, Baidoa and Mogadishu and conducted a temporary deployment to Beledweyne to respond to explosive hazards. The Mine Action Service also provided counter-improvised explosive device and mine awareness support for police and justice personnel led by the United Kingdom in "Somaliland", aimed at improving police and judiciary coordination in compiling evidence and preparing legal cases.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

39. The Federal Government continued to implement its national programme for disengaging combatants. Major donors, including Germany and the United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark, pledged funding to support three existing transitional facilities in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Beledweyne until early in 2016. UNSOM continued its efforts to identify additional funding for the establishment of the transitional facility in Kismaayo. In the meantime, 150 former Al-Shabaab members remain in a temporary facility supported by the Interim Jubba Administration. The appointment of human rights monitors for all transitional centres for disengaged combatants in January 2015 marked an important step towards ensuring compliance with international standards in line with the national programme. UNSOM continued its efforts to seek support for safe houses for female disengaged combatants in Baidoa, a project that has become urgent in the light of threats to some of the prospective beneficiaries.

Maritime security

40. UNSOM helped the Federal Government to re-energize donor support for a maritime security regime that can fight transnational maritime crime and administer Somali waters for the benefit of the Somali people. UNSOM is also providing technical assistance to develop a Coastguard Establishment Law by May 2015, while engineering mentors from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime support maritime security in "Somaliland" through the refurbishment of a coastguard patrol boat and in-class engineering and maintenance training. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), alongside the International Organization for Migration and others, continued to provide training to border and migration authorities in "Somaliland" and Puntland on international protection of migrants arriving by sea.

Mine action

41. A strategy for the management of explosive hazards was developed with United Nations support to facilitate compliance with national and international obligations, and is pending Federal Government approval. In February, the Mine Action Service and partners facilitated Federal Government and "Somaliland" representation at the 18th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programmes in Switzerland, providing an advocacy platform for international assistance. Local Mine Action Service explosive hazard risk educators provided targeted risk messaging to internally displaced persons, returnees and youth in the newly recovered areas.

Justice and corrections

42. Following months of political instability, on 23 March the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility endorsed the Somalia Joint Rule of Law Programme 2015-2016. UNSOM and UNDP collaborated with the Federal Government in finalizing a mapping of existing court facilities, prisons and police stations throughout Somalia. Upon the request of the Attorney General's Office, UNSOM provided technical assistance for the drafting of the Office's Establishment Act and held a briefing in March on guidelines and other international standards on the role of prosecutors.

43. On 31 March, the Ministry of Justice and Judicial Affairs adopted the Somalia Corrections Service Strategic Plan and training curriculum for the Custodial Corps, developed with UNSOM support. UNSOM, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services continue to facilitate the training of Somali police force and Custodial Corps staff in the protection of judicial personnel and court buildings, parallel to efforts to improve infrastructure and procure security equipment as part of the Banaadir court complex pilot project. From 1 to 5 March, the United Nations provided the Custodial Corps with biometric registration equipment and related training. This enabled the launch, on 18 March, of a process to register some 3,000 members of the Custodial Corps in the 10 prisons in southern and central Somalia in the coming months, with a view to enhancing efficiency and accountability.

F. Economic foundations

44. UNDP, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) developed a joint programme to promote youth employment, focusing on sectors including agriculture, fisheries and livestock. The programme also focuses on creating short-term jobs through infrastructure rehabilitation, promoting youth literacy, numeracy and life skills, and vocational and business training. The programme was approved by the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility in March 2015 and implementation is expected to commence shortly.

45. The Federal Government, in partnership with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), commenced a $9.5 million initiative aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable communities. GEF financing will be used to support ministries, districts, not-for-profit organizations and community-

based organizations to integrate climate change risks in natural resource management and disaster preparedness, considered crucial for long-term development and peacebuilding.

46. On productive sectors, there was progress in increasing and diversifying production in agriculture, livestock and fisheries. FAO distributed 1,500 animals and vaccinated 2.6 million animals nationwide. Work continues on improving milk production, hygiene and quality in "Somaliland" and the Gedo Region. Farmers benefited from improved agriculture input distribution, training in good agriculture and pest management practices, marketing skills and asset management. Seventeen sluice gates for the Shabelle River were constructed or rehabilitated, irrigation programmes continued, and 14.6 km of primary and secondary canals were built in Burao.

47. Across the sectors, lack of human and financial capital remains the biggest challenge. Continued funding is needed to sustain productive sectors and scale up youth employment activities in areas where needs are the greatest. Concessionary project financing for large-scale productive infrastructure is likely to be limited until Somalia qualifies for heavily indebted poor country status. Security problems and related access limitations will continue to hamper implementation. A key priority is providing equitable economic opportunities to Somali women, who mostly occupy low-paying jobs in the informal sector.

G. Revenue and services

48. The World Bank continued to provide support and advice to the Federal Government to strengthen public financial management and financial governance. In the first quarter of 2015, the Federal Government established an interim procurement board, which will review all contracts with a value of more than $5 million and submit them to the Financial Governance Committee for advice. Approved budget and fiscal performance reports are now being published on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

49. The web-based version of the Somalia Financial Management Information System became operational. Revenue collection will now be recorded at source and reconciled against banking at the Central Bank. Alerts are provided to the Minister of Finance and senior officials for certain thresholds of payment and dashboards on fiscal performance are also available.

50. The terms of reference for the second year of the Financial Governance Committee's mandate were revised and endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility on 23 March, resulting in a slight revision of the scope of the Financial Governance Committee and confirming its oversight role in relation to asset recovery and concessions. The membership of the Financial Governance Committee was expanded with additional seats for the Chair of the Parliamentary Finance Committee, the Solicitor General and a donor delegate.

51. Scaling-up the delivery of basic services remains a priority of the United Nations support to the Federal Government. The delivery of the essential package of health services was rolled out in 39 districts, covering 76.7 per cent of the target population and benefiting more than 25,000 pregnant women and 118,000 children under 5.

52. The school census data for 2013/14, which was finalized and analysed during the first part of 2015, showed enrolment of school-aged children in both formal and non-formal education increased by 10 per cent in Puntland, but remained static in "Somaliland". Gross primary enrolment is now 56 per cent in Puntland, and 43 per cent in "Somaliland". No data were available for southern and central regions.

H. Cross-cutting issues: promotion and protection of human rights

Human rights

53. Journalists continued to be intimidated and threatened. On 1 March, Shabelle News Network journalists had to pay excessive fines, in addition to prolonged illegal detention, after being charged with public incitement and publishing false news. After UNSOM intervened, the Somalia National Intelligence and Security Agency released their equipment pursuant to a court order. In April, two Radio Shabelle journalists were again arrested without warrant and its media activities suspended.

54. UNSOM continued to advocate against the death penalty and executions. On 13 April, "Somaliland" executed six individuals, ending a nine-year-old de facto moratorium. Also in March, UNSOM verified six executions carried out in Mogadishu and Puntland, all following military court trials.

55. UNSOM advocated for civilian protection and investigations into deaths caused by inter-clan conflict, notably in the Hiraan Region, where 20 people died in a single incident in which the security forces reportedly supported one of the clans.

56. In addition, UNSOM facilitated two cross-ministry consultations on the Human Rights Road Map Action Plan, which will inform the Ministry of Human Rights' implementation of the Compact and serve as a basis for its national report under the universal periodic review. UNSOM continues to support Somalia-wide civil society in preparations for the universal periodic review, facilitating three consultations.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

57. Ensuring women's participation in the clan-based political structure of Somalia remains a major challenge. Sustained advocacy and increased support to women's initiatives bore some fruit in the reporting period. In January, women's representation in the Cabinet increased and the National Independent Electoral Commission law provided for at least two female commissioners.

58. The United Nations also continued to work to support members of Somali civil society who advocate for women's representation. In March, UNSOM facilitated a Somali Women's Leadership Initiative-led solidarity mission to Kismaayo, supporting local women's groups to negotiate with the regional authority and local elders for participation in the regional assembly process in the Juba regions. To mark International Women's Day, UNSOM facilitated an Open Day, which enabled Somali women to raise their concerns with my Special Representative and the Federal Ministers of Health and Education.

Child protection

59. On 20 January, in Mogadishu, President Mohamud announced his intention to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which would make Somalia the 196th State party, following Parliament's endorsement of the Convention the previous month. President Mohamud expressed his Government's commitment to implementing the Convention and ensuring that the rights of all Somali children are protected; he stressed that no child would be allowed to join the security forces, including the army. The ratification process will be finalized after the Government of Somalia deposits the instruments of ratification with the United Nations in New York.

60. The United Nations country task force continues to document cases of grave violations of children's rights. During the reporting period a total of 705 incidents were recorded affecting 673 children (552 boys, 121 girls), which mostly involved allegations of recruitment and use, killing and maiming of children by Al-Shabaab and the Somali national army. Of major concern is the continuing arrest and detention of children by several parties to the conflict. Currently, 61 children (52 boys, 9 girls) are enrolled in United Nations-supported community-based reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces or groups in Baidoa. In addition, children are facing protection risks from being separated from families, including gender-based violence, psychosocial stress and support, mine risk education, child labour and early marriage.

61. On 1 March, management of the "Serendi" transitional facility in Mogadishu for former Al-Shabaab fighters was transferred to Adam Smith International, a non-governmental organization. UNSOM continued to advocate for children held there to be released and referred to protection agencies. The numbers of children held in the Mogadishu site could not be confirmed, as the UNSOM-supported local human rights monitor for the facility was injured during an Al-Shabaab attack on 27 March. On 25 April, the First Instance Military Court of Mogadishu ordered a minor accused of Al-Shabaab-related activity to be transferred to the "Serendi" centre for rehabilitation.

Prevention of sexual violence

62. Sexual violence continues to be reported in Somalia in 2015 at about the same rate as in 2014. According to UNHCR, in January and February 2015, over 200 cases of rape were reported, mainly in Banaadir Region, and incidents of sexual violence were reported in Bay and Juba Hoose regions. The main perpetrators were reported as unidentified armed men. There were also reports implicating the Somali national army and police force, Al-Shabaab, and some AMISOM contingents. The survivors are mostly women and girls who were displaced from their areas of origin, members of minority clans being at greatest risk.

63. The Federal Government, with the support of the United Nations, developed a national action plan to combat sexual violence in conflict in May 2014. A Sexual Offences Bill, aimed at criminalizing rape and other sexual offences, is pending parliamentary consideration. In a panel discussion organized by UNHCR and Legal Action Worldwide on 3 March, the Federal Government, my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the Chair of the African Union Commission expressed their commitment to work jointly to combat sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and to realize the "zero tolerance" policy of the United Nations.

IV. Humanitarian situation

64. During the reporting period, relatively good rains in October-December 2014 and reprioritized humanitarian assistance averted a most acute humanitarian crisis, according to post-harvest findings by the Food Security and Analysis Unit, managed by FAO. However, about 730,000 Somalis, of whom 76 per cent are displaced people living in urban areas, are still unable to meet their basic daily food needs. An additional 2.3 million people are at risk of sliding into the same situation where assistance is not provided. Meanwhile, nearly 203,000 acutely malnourished children require emergency nutrition supplements, access to clean water, sanitation infrastructure and better hygiene services.

65. More than 1.1 million Somalis, the majority of whom are women and children, remain displaced. During the first two months of 2015 over 40,000 people were evicted, mainly in Mogadishu, and moved further into the outskirts of the city, where access to basic services is limited. Against this dire humanitarian backdrop, there is a risk that remittances, estimated at $1.3 billion annually, could be shut down as a number of banks in many countries have started to close down the accounts of money transfer organizations that enable the Somali diaspora to send money home to family and friends for food, water, health and education.

66. Measles remains a public health concern. More than 1,200 suspected measles cases have been reported in 2015. Of these, 77 per cent (931 cases) were reported from the southern and central regions, where most of the unvaccinated children live. The outbreak of polio that has affected 199 people since 2013 was curbed, and no polio case has been registered since August 2014. Owing to the low level of routine immunization, however, health specialists advised that the eradication campaign continue in 2015.

67. Predictable and unimpeded access to vulnerable communities continues to be a challenge because of the fluid security situation. The deadly attack on a United Nations vehicle in Garoowe on 20 April, which claimed the lives of four UNICEF staff members and two guards, underscores the dangerous operating environment. Roadblocks and checkpoints in southern and central Somalia manned by armed actors continue to severely hamper delivery of aid. The two main roads most affected by roadblocks remain Beledweyne-Mogadishu and Mogadishu-Baidoa-Doolow. Road access limitations increase operational and transportation costs for humanitarian agencies delivering food to affected towns. They also increase commercial food prices as traders transfer the high cost of operating in insecure areas to consumers, making it difficult for vulnerable people to access food. Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners continue to find solutions to deliver food assistance, such as agreements with local authorities to open up roads, local partners, and by air in isolated areas. However, some of these means are costly and unsustainable in the long term. Road access is therefore required to enable humanitarian partners to deliver life-saving assistance.

68. In reference to paragraph 29 of resolution 2182 (2014), humanitarian partners are engaging with AMISOM through the application of the principle of last resort, pursuant to the civil-military guidelines signed by the United Nations and AMISOM in November 2014. Aid organizations continue to call on AMISOM to strengthen the implementation of its mandate to facilitate humanitarian access, particularly in relation to securing the roads to enable humanitarian partners to address urgent needs.

69. During the reporting period, humanitarian partners reached 541,000 people with activities aimed at building livelihoods and 331,000 people with food assistance. About 128,000 people were reached with livelihood seasonal inputs, including seeds, tools, fishing equipment, irrigation vouchers, livestock redistribution and livestock vaccination. About 43,000 children under 5 were treated for acute malnutrition. Through emergency response, 29,000 learners were supported with temporary learning spaces, teacher incentives, school supplies, training, capacity-building and rehabilitation, while protection partners reached 13,000 people with protection activities. About 265,000 Somalis have been reached with basic health services while 314,000 people were provided with temporary or sustainable access to safe water. Since the start of the year, about 47,000 people have access to newly constructed sanitation facilities (latrines) and 162,000 people benefited from hygiene promotion sessions or distribution of hygiene kits.

V. Targeted sanctions

70. On 28 January 2015, I appointed the three remaining experts of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (see S/2015/67). During the informal consultations of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) on 13 February, the Monitoring Group presented its workplan and its preliminary views on a possible exemption to the arms embargo for weapons on board vessels engaged in commercial activity in Somali ports. During the Committee's informal consultations on 8 April, the Monitoring Group presented its midterm briefing. The Federal Government submitted its first report pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 2182 (2014) to the Security Council on 30 March. The Monitoring Group is actively working with the Federal Government on enhancing its reporting to the Security Council and the Committee.

VI. Implementation of resolutions 2124 (2013) and 2182 (2014)

71. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2182 (2014), a joint African Union-United Nations team visited Somalia and the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa from 15 to 25 April for a joint review mission to review the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia and review the impact of the temporary surge authorized in resolution 2124 (2013). The conclusions from the benchmarking exercise will be issued shortly and I will transmit them to the Security Council for its consideration.

Support to AMISOM and the Somali national army

72. The United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) continued to provide logistics support to AMISOM and the Somali national army during joint operations, as authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013).

73. During the reporting period, UNSOA repatriated 850 Sierra Leonean troops and contingent-owned equipment following their withdrawal from AMISOM. The additional troops from Kenya and Ethiopia to replace the Sierra Leonean troops have not yet been deployed, pending guidance from the African Union. UNSOA also facilitated the deployment of an additional 900 Djiboutian troops and the rotation of troops from Burundi, Uganda and Kenya, and the Ugandan formed police unit.

74. UNSOA faced limitations in its distribution of supplies to frontline troops because the major supply routes remain insecure and sometimes impassable owing to poor road conditions. As a result, sustenance of frontline troops remained reliant on air support at a very high cost. The acquisition of a C-130 aircraft under long-term contract helped UNSOA to increase its capacity to resupply all sectors and to reduce dependence on other missions in the region. UNSOA received engineering equipment worth $6 million to support the construction of new sector hubs and 23 armoured vehicles to enhance staff security. With the arrival of spare parts, UNSOA continued to conduct extensive repairs on AMISOM armoured vehicles. However, its ability to maintain effectively the AMISOM fleet was challenged by the requirement to fuel and maintain donated vehicles, which is sometimes unforeseen and unbudgeted. UNSOA also conducted in-mission and predeployment training for 634 AMISOM personnel.

75. UNSOA issued a complete set of Level I equipment, drugs and other medical consumables to the Somali national army to equip the military hospital in Mogadishu, which is expected to be upgraded to a Level II hospital when the required medical personnel become available. Level II hospitals were also completed at Baidoa and Beledweyne. UNSOA continued to replace and repair medical equipment at the AMISOM Level II hospital in Mogadishu, and issued 3,000 individual first aid kits and 20 emergency trauma bags to the national army to assist in minimizing the mortality and morbidity rates during combat operations. UNSOA further supported training of the national army on the use of the kits. In addition 109 air medical evacuations were conducted for AMISOM and national army frontline personnel. UNSOA is working with the Department of Field Support to procure 24-hour medical evacuation capacity, which is essential to save lives in combat.

76. A total of 8,205 Somali national army troops benefited from UNSOA logistics and training support. UNSOA incurred expenditure of $11 million from the Trust Fund in support of the Somali national army in joint operations with AMISOM, in areas authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013). The Trust Fund received total contributions of $16.1 million from the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, New Zealand, Denmark and Sweden. Support to the Somali national army was challenged by the dearth of viable roads for the movement of supplies, as well as the wide distribution of army elements and the need to verify their numbers and positions.

77. As part of the UNSOA logistical support package, the Mine Action Service provided force protection and force mobility support by training, equipping and mentoring AMISOM counter-improvised explosive device and explosive ordnance disposal teams in all sectors. The Service also helped AMISOM to provide convoy protection in response to explosive hazards on main supply routes. At the request of AMISOM, the Service began delivering improvised explosive device awareness sessions as a component of the AMISOM general security package.

78. UNSOM continued working with AMISOM to improve coordination between the two Missions, including UNSOA. Following a joint African Union-United Nations retreat on Somalia in Kampala on 9 and 10 January, the Missions agreed to establish several joint working groups and to continue to review their progress through a monthly Senior Leadership Coordination Forum, co-chaired by my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the Chair of the African Union Commission for Somalia.

Human rights due diligence policy

79. On 22 April, the African Union issued a report on key findings of its investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by AMISOM personnel. On the same day, AMISOM and UNSOM held the third meeting of the Working Group on the human rights due diligence policy and reviewed a joint mapping report on mechanisms to implement the policy.

80. UNSOM and UNSOA continued to deliver training on human rights for Somali national army soldiers benefiting from the support package authorized in resolution 2182 (2014). Since December 2014, a total of 348 soldiers of different ranks have been trained on human rights in Sectors 1 and 5. UNSOM also facilitated mandatory predeployment training on human rights, child protection and gender, for 80 Ugandan soldiers in Kampala. Meanwhile, UNSOM and AMISOM have jointly prepared a report mapping existing measures and mechanisms for AMISOM compliance with the human rights due diligence policy and identifying gaps that should be addressed.

VII. United Nations presence in Somalia

A. Expansion of United Nations presence

81. During the reporting period, the international staff figures averaged 430 across Somalia, while national staff figures averaged 1,006. The international staff average for Mogadishu was 277, including a total of 91 UNSOM and 124 UNSOA international staff. The new UNSOM headquarters adjacent to the Mogadishu International Airport, Villa Nabad, became ready for occupation at the end of March; this will enhance the Mission's ability to engage with government officials and other Somalia interlocutors outside the Mogadishu International Airport area. As part of its ongoing efforts to open its planned office in Hargeysa, UNSOM submitted a proposal to the "Somaliland" administration regarding priority areas of engagement.

B. Integration

82. The integrated Senior Management Group, chaired by my Special Representative, met three times during the reporting period to provide strategic direction to United Nations activities in Somalia and to review and monitor progress made on the Integrated Strategic Framework for Somalia. The Framework in turn reflects United Nations contributions to national priorities, set out in the Somali Compact. Of the six United Nations programmes approved under the Compact framework in March, four are implemented jointly by UNSOM and United Nations agencies, including support to the state formation process, constitutional review, preparation for the 2016 elections and the joint rule of law programme.

C. Staff safety and security

83. In the light of the evolving threat of infiltration demonstrated in recent attacks by Al-Shabaab, the security management system focused on measures to deter,

detect and defend against threats to the layered perimeter security system at the Mogadishu International Airport and in other high-risk areas. Discussions continued with AMISOM with respect to mitigating threats to United Nations convoys. Discussions also continued with donors to address a severe funding shortage affecting the Department of Safety and Security, which threatened the stoppage of vital security services and projects.

84. In response to growing security needs, following an internal assessment and further to the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council dated 31 March and 2 April 2015 (S/2015/234 and S/2015/235), steps were taken to expand the United Nations guard unit by 120 troops from the current strength of 410. The new troops are expected on the ground by late July.

85. The United Nations continued to negotiate amendments to the status-of-mission agreement with the Federal Government, which are essential for the operations of the United Nations guard unit. Memorandums of understanding also remain under negotiation with the African Union and the Federal Government, aimed at coordinating the guard unit's operations with those of AMISOM and the Somali security forces.

86. Other security measures included the establishment of an area security management structure in Baidoa and increased presence of the Department of Safety and Security through Field Security Coordination Officers in Hargeysa, Baidoa (Bay Region) and Doolow (Gedo Region). UNSOA/UNSOM permanently assigned security officers to Kismaayo, Baidoa and Beledweyne, bringing the United Nations staff ceiling inside Somalia to 580.

VIII. Observations

87. I am deeply saddened by, and condemn, the terrorist attack in Garoowe that claimed the lives of four UNICEF staff and their two Somali guards. Al-Shabaab targeted committed individuals who were working tirelessly to improve the lives of Somali children and families.

88. I remain greatly concerned about security in Somalia, and about the threat posed by Al-Shabaab to the wider subregion, demonstrated by the heinous attack on Garissa University College in Kenya in April. Counter-terrorism requires a comprehensive strategy beyond military operations, encompassing political, development, communications and human rights efforts. I encourage Member States to cooperate more closely over the coming months in addressing the threat at a subregional level, including measures to prevent and counter violent extremism. The increasing Al-Shabaab activities in Puntland and the security implications of developments in Yemen for Somalia are also of concern.

89. It is essential that the AMISOM-Somali national army joint military campaign continue, and be properly supported to achieve its goals. I look forward to presenting to the Security Council the findings of the review, conducted jointly with the African Union, of progress against the benchmarks established under Council resolution 2124 (2013), and presenting recommendations for the next phase of the campaign. Meanwhile, I urge Member States to replenish the AMISOM Trust Fund, in order to allow UNSOA to provide the self-sustainment support authorized in

resolution 2010 (2011). I commend the European Union for its invaluable support to AMISOM in covering the allowances of civilian and military personnel and call upon Member States with the capability to help to shoulder this burden.

90. I am encouraged that Somalia's political process has regained momentum in recent months. Despite the challenges facing the country, Somalia's federal, regional and local leaders, parliamentarians, and people from all walks of life are building a federal state, step by step, through dialogue and reconciliation. The task is difficult and painstaking, but it must continue, and deserves our full and sustained support.

91. I welcome the firm commitment expressed by the Federal President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, as well as the Prime Minister, the Speaker and the leaders of Puntland and the Interim Jubba and South-West Administrations to deliver Somalia's "Vision 2016" plan, without any extension of the term of the Federal Parliament or President in August and September 2016 respectively.

92. It is now important to focus on achieving the important milestones ahead, including completing the formation of interim regional administrations and assemblies; advancing the constitutional review; operationalizing the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Boundaries and Federation Commission; and finalizing priority legislation on political parties, citizenship, and elections.

93. Political inclusion is essential if these processes are to be sustainable. I welcome the efforts being made by the Interim Jubba and South-West Administrations to foster greater inclusion in their political institutions, and to tackle longstanding grievances between communities. Women, minorities and youth should be well represented in these processes. I encourage international partners to continue to support local reconciliation efforts, which are critical to underpin the wider "Vision 2016".

94. Debate about the modalities for an electoral process in 2016 has commenced in Somalia. Later in 2015, I anticipate the need for broad consultation on the issue, Somali owned and led, which should engage all stakeholders across the country, including civil society. For now, I hope that Somalis will continue to give priority to creating conducive conditions for elections, by continuing to advance the political, security and peacebuilding goals they have set for 2015. For international partners, the High-level Partners' Forum in Mogadishu in July 2015 will provide an important opportunity to take stock of progress.

95. I am concerned at the breakdown of talks between the Federal Government and "Somaliland". I call upon the Federal Government and "Somaliland" to end the impasse without unnecessary preconditions, and resume dialogue. My Special Representative will be following up with the Federal Government and "Somaliland" on next steps in the process.

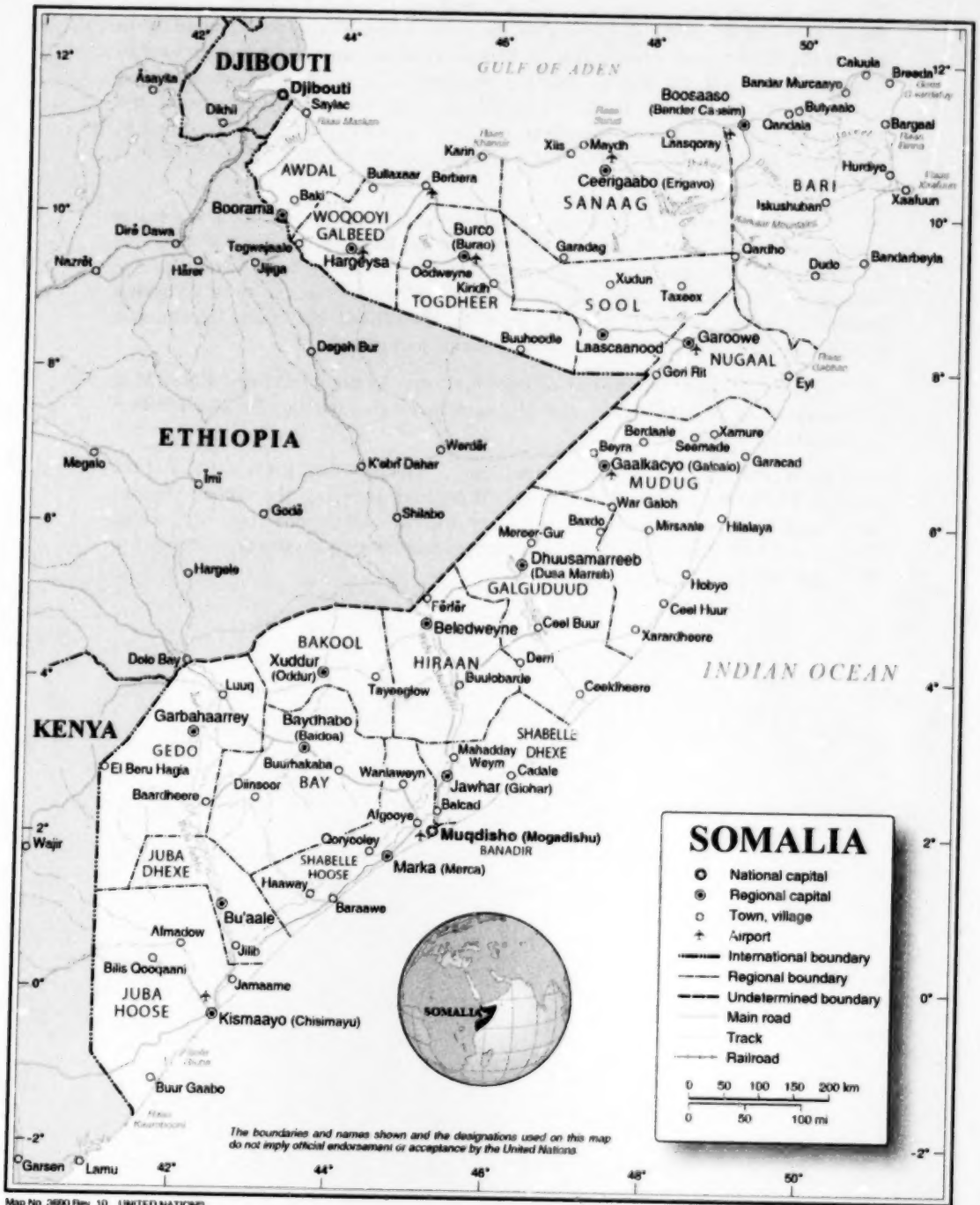
96. I am seriously concerned by the spike in executions, in the light of Somalia's commitment to a moratorium on the death penalty and the challenges facing the justice system. Implementation of the human rights due diligence policy remains very important. I call on the Somali authorities to undertake thorough investigations when responding to alleged violations of international law, including in the context of military operations. I welcome the release of the key findings and recommendations from the report of the African Union-commissioned independent investigation team into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by AMISOM soldiers. I urge that those recommendations be implemented.

97. The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains of serious concern, in spite of the progress made at the beginning of the year. I urge the donor community to honour the $863 million request that the humanitarian community has put forward to meet the needs of 2.8 million Somalis who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. If implemented, the humanitarian response plan will sustain the emergency response, strengthen resilience activities, and help to offset the effect of unforeseen environmental shocks that could reverse the positive gains of the past few months.

98. I remain concerned about the impact of measures against money transfer companies on the flow of remittances to Somalia. Remittances are a lifeline for millions of Somalis; an estimated 40 per cent of the population depends on them for basic needs such as food and medicine. I call on Member States to work with their financial sectors to put in place a credible transitional remittance mechanism pending creation of formal banking arrangements in Somalia.

99. These challenges require our concerted efforts. As the mandate of UNSOM is due to expire on 2 June 2015, I strongly recommend its extension for an additional 12 months, to 2 June 2016.

100. I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Nicholas Kay, his deputies and the staff of UNSOM, UNSOA and the United Nations agencies, the United Nations guard unit, funds and programmes, and other international organizations in Somalia. Their continuing hard work in difficult and dangerous circumstances is a credit to the Organization.


SOMALIA
DJIBOUTI
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
GULF OF ADEN
INDIAN OCEAN
Djibouti
Saylac
Dikhil
Asayita
Boosaaso (Bender Qaasim)
Bandar Murcaayo
Caluula
Breeda
Bulyaaso
Qandala
Bargaal
Karin
Xiis
Maydh
Laasqoray
Ceerigaabo (Erigavo)
Hurdiyo
Iskushuban
Xaafuun
AWDAL
Bullaxaar
Berbera
BARI
SANAAG
Boorama
Baki
WOQOOYI GALBEED
Burco (Burao)
Garadag
Qardho
Dudo
Bandarbeyla
Dire Dawa
Togwajale
Hargeysa
Nazrêt
Hârer
Jijiga
Oodweyne
Kirdh
TOGDHEER
Xudun
Taxeex
SOOL
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Garoowe
NUGAAL
Gori Rit
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Dagah Bur
Megalo
Imi
Wendêr
K'abri Dahar
Berdaale
Xamure
Beyra
Seemade
Gaalkacyo (Galcaio)
Garacad
MUDUG
War Galoh
Godê
Shilabo
Baxdo
Mirsaale
Hilalaya
Mereer-Gur
Dhuusamarreeb (Dusa Marreb)
Hobyo
Hargele
GALGUDUUD
Ferfer
Ceel Huur
Beledweyne
Ceel Buur
Xaraardheere
BAKOOL
Xuddur (Oddur)
HIRAAN
Deri
Dolo Bay
Luuq
Tayeeglow
Buulobarde
Ceelkheere
Garbahaarrey
Baydhabo (Baidoa)
SHABELLE DHEXE
GEDO
Mahaddaay Weyne
Cadale
El Beru Hagia
Buurhakaba
Wanlaweyn
Jawhar (Giohar)
Diinsoor
BAY
Baardheere
Balcad
Algooye
Muqdisho (Mogadishu)
BANADIR
Wajir
Qoryooley
SHABELLE HOOSE
Marka (Merca)
JUBA DHEXE
Haaway
Baraawe
Bu'aale
Almadow
Jilib
Bilis Qooqaani
Jamaame
JUBA HOOSE
Kismaayo (Chisimayu)
Buur Gaabo
Garsen
Lamu
National capital
Regional capital
Town, village
Airport
International boundary
Regional boundary
Undetermined boundary
Main road
Track
Railroad
0 50 100 150 200 km
0 50 100 mi
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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government and in view of the baseless allegations and accusations that the mission of the Syrian regime has continuously made against Qatar since the start of the revolution in Syria, I wish to reiterate my country's position that no heed should be paid to that regime's attempts to accuse States that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are standing with the Syrian people in support of its legitimate demands. Nor should heed be paid to that regime's failed attempts to distract the attention of Member States, in general, and the members of the Security Council, in particular, prior to any event that will focus on the war crimes and crimes against humanity that it continues to commit.

I should also like to reiterate that Qatar is known, both at the regional and international levels, as a committed and active member of the international community. Qatar is also known for its efforts to foster international peace and security, including the efforts of Qatari Government institutions to mediate conflicts and resolve them peacefully, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. All of the accusations that the regime has levelled against Qatar, including those set out in its letter of 4 May 2015, are false, malicious, unfounded and illogical.

Making such accusations is in keeping with the regime's modus operandi, which is based on falsifying facts and disseminating malicious propaganda in order to cover up its systematic policy of terrorizing and oppressing the Syrian people. It is also the regime's policy to employ all means to achieve its goals, including those that are internationally prohibited, such as chemical weapons, even though that might lead to the disintegration of the Syrian Arab Republic and could destabilize the region and the world.

In that connection, we should like to reiterate that the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic established by the Secretary-General in 2013 determined that surface-to-surface rockets armed with sarin gas had been used. In addition, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Fact-Finding Mission established in 2014 to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria determined with a high degree of confidence that chlorine had been used repeatedly as a weapon in that country.

The attacks against Idlib and its countryside using toxic chemicals continued even after the adoption of Security Council resolution 2209 (2015) of 6 March 2015, which condemns in the strongest terms any use of any toxic chemical as a weapon in Syria. Those attacks are a flagrant violation of the above-mentioned resolution, in which the Council decided that it would impose measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in the event of non-compliance.

The involvement of the Syrian regime in those crimes is now well known. All the evidence documented in the reports of the United Nations points to that. For example, as noted in the reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission, helicopters were flying over the targeted locations at the time the chemical weapon attacks occurred. This confirms the involvement of the regime, because it is the only party in Syria that possesses helicopters.

Given that establishing responsibility for those shocking crimes is not part of the Fact-Finding Mission's mandate, we join those States and international organizations that are calling for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to identify the persons responsible for those crimes and bring them before an international criminal justice forum.

Those ugly crimes are indicative of an utter disregard for civilian life and are in stark violation of international law and the relevant international instruments. The persons responsible for those crimes must be punished, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2209 (2015), paragraph 6, in which the Council stressed that those individuals responsible for any use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, must be held accountable.

The atrocities and blatant violations that have been perpetrated over the course of four years against the Syrian people by a regime that is supposed to be that people's primary protector demonstrates the utter failure of the manner in which the international community has dealt with the officials involved in those crimes. Urgent measures must be taken to save the Syrian people from a regime that is committing atrocities against it and from terrorist groups the operations of which the regime facilitates in order to spread chaos in Syria and the region, and achieve its aims, even if that comes at the expense of international peace and security.

In conclusion, Qatar reiterates its steadfast support for the Syrian people and affirms that it will spare no effort to end their suffering by all legal means and ensure that they are heard by the Security Council and the international community.

I should be grateful if the present could be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/333*

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2015

Original: English

Albania, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, *noting* the significance of small arms and light weapons as the most frequently used weapons in the majority of recent armed conflicts and *emphasizing* that the excessive accumulation and destabilizing effect of small arms and light weapons have a potential to endanger civilians, including women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups,

Recalling its resolutions 1196 (1998), 1209 (1998), 1467 (2003) and 2117 (2013), the statements of its President of 25 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/16), 19 March 2010 (S/PRST/2010/6), of 14 January 2009 (S/PRST/2009/1), of 29 June 2007 (S/PRST/2007/24), of 17 February 2005 (S/PRST/2005/7), of 19 January 2004 (S/PRST/2004/1), of 31 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/30), of 31 August 2001 (S/PRST/2001/21) and of 24 September 1999 (S/PRST/1999/28), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council and statements of its President, including on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, women and peace and security and children in armed conflict,

Emphasizing that the right of individual and collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and the legitimate security demands of all countries should be fully taken into account, and *recognizing* that small arms and light weapons are traded, manufactured and retained by States for legitimate security, sporting and commercial considerations,

* Reissued for technical reasons on 29 May 2015.

Please recycle

Noting that this resolution focuses on the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including in respect of Council-mandated arms embargoes,

Gravely concerned that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world continue to pose threats to international peace and security, cause significant loss of life, contribute to instability and insecurity and continue to undermine the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reiterating its deep regret that civilians continue to account for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict and *recalling with grave concern* that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflicts and have a wide range of negative human rights, humanitarian, development and socioeconomic consequences, in particular on the security of civilians in armed conflict, including the disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls and exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence,

Gravely concerned by the detrimental effects of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on children in armed conflict, in particular due to recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict, as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of international law,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, and the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances,

Underlining the responsibility of States to prevent threats posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons to international peace and security, and the devastating impact on civilians in armed conflict, and *reaffirming* that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians and recalling that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law,

Recognizing that the misuse of small arms and light weapons has resulted in grave crimes, expressing its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of human rights and *emphasizing* in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law is consistent with their obligations under international law,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including paragraphs 138 and 139 thereof regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Recognizing that efforts by the United Nations aimed at addressing the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons should be a part of a comprehensive and integrated approach that incorporates and strengthens coherence between political, security, development, human rights and rule of law activities and addresses the root causes of conflict, strengthens community security and mitigates armed violence,

Recognizing that insecurity resulting from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons negatively impact conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding, the consolidation of peace in countries emerging from conflict and their post-conflict development, including education, health and economic opportunity,

Acknowledging the important contribution of Council-mandated arms embargoes in countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and *noting* the need to improve information sharing on possible arms embargo violations between groups of experts, peacekeeping missions within their mandates and other relevant United Nations entities,

Recognizing the desirability of aligning objectives of Council-mandated arms embargoes with the overall objectives of other efforts in the relevant Member State or region by United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, improving physical security and stockpile management practices and enhancement of border security,

Reiterating that United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant Council-mandated entities, located in a Member State or region with a Council-mandated arms embargo, may, if deemed necessary by the Council, assist with appropriate expertise and capacity-building for host governments in the field of weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes, enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, record keeping and tracing capacities, development of national export and import control systems, enhancement of border security, and strengthening judicial institutions and law enforcement capacity,

Recalling with concern the close connection between international terrorism, transnational organized crime, drugs trafficking, money-laundering, other illicit financial transactions, illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons and arms trafficking, and the link between the illegal exploitation of natural resources, illicit trade in such resources and the proliferation and trafficking of arms as a major factor fuelling and exacerbating many conflicts,

Emphasizing that the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons can aid terrorism and illegal armed groups and facilitate increasing levels of transnational organized crime and *underscoring* that such illicit trafficking could harm civilians, including women and children, create instability and long-term governance challenges and complicate conflict resolution,

Stressing the utmost importance of women's full and effective participation in all efforts related to countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, in line with its resolution 1325 (2000),

Expressing concern at the continuing threats posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers and their effectiveness in implementing peacekeeping mandates, and to the safety and security of humanitarian workers and their effective provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the value of effective physical security and management of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and ammunition as an important means to prevent the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with global and regional standards, including through the application of voluntary guidelines, such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) developed under the UN Safer*G*uard programme, and the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) in arms and ammunition stockpile management practices,

Noting that marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons by Member States, particularly countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, can serve to detect violations of applicable arms embargoes and identify weaknesses in stockpile management,

Acknowledging the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014, *taking note* of a great number of signatories to the Treaty and the increasing number of State Parties, and *looking forward* to the important contribution it can make to international peace, security and stability, reducing human suffering and promoting cooperation,

Reaffirming the significance and central role of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, including the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, as crucial instruments in countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by Member States, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations in addressing threats to international peace and security posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and *noting* the significant role of civil society in supporting such efforts,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report to the Council of 27 April 2015 entitled "Small arms and light weapons" (S/2015/289),

Expressing its determination to implement existing and to take further practical steps to prevent the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including in support of other ongoing processes,

1. *Welcomes* efforts made by Member States, regional and subregional organizations in addressing the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and encourages the establishment or strengthening, where appropriate, of subregional and regional cooperation, coordination and information sharing mechanisms, in particular, transborder

customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing, with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons;

2. *Reiterates* that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel conflict and have devastating impact on the protection of civilians, reiterates its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, and stresses the need for parties to take all required measures to avoid civilian casualties, respect and protect the civilian population;

3. *Reemphasizes* its call on parties to armed conflict, in this regard, to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and to take measures to eradicate the negative impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on humanitarian actors, and to take all required steps to facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel;

4. *Expresses* its intention to continue to take due regard of issues related to the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons when considering or updating mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and other Council-mandated entities, and in this regard *encourages* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to consider identifying capacities of United Nations entities that could contribute to countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons at the earliest possible stage, to consider involving these entities in strategic assessments and technical assessment missions and to present options for United Nations engagement in this regard, including through assisting host countries in weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes, enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, record keeping and tracing capacities, development of national export and import control systems, enhancement of border security, and strengthening judicial institutions and law enforcement capacity;

5. *Emphasizes* that Member States, United Nations peacekeeping operations and other Council-mandated entities, where appropriate and mandated, and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, may be in a position to assist in capacity-building of governments upon request to ensure the safe and effective management, storage, security, marking, record-keeping and tracing of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, and collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition and *encourages* Member States and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to render assistance upon request in implementing these tasks, including through examining technologies that would improve the tracing and detection of illicit transfer in small arms and light weapons, as well as measures to facilitate the transfer of such technologies;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations to gather and share best practices of Member States, related to safe storage, marking and destruction of weapons collected as part of weapons collection and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

7. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of weapons collection and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes depends *inter alia* on providing sustainable opportunities to former combatants and on the ability of State institutions to foster an inclusive environment in which people feel safe and secure;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of security sector reform in improving the ability of the State to extend public security and rule of law within its boundaries, to train professional, effective and accountable security personnel and assisting States to develop proper procedures for weapon stockpile management, physical security, marking, record-keeping and tracing;

9. *Reaffirms its responsibility* to monitor the implementation of Council-mandated arms embargoes and *reaffirms its intention* to take appropriate measures, when needed, to strengthen arms embargo monitoring mechanisms including inter alia through assigning dedicated staff, monitoring units to relevant United Nations Missions to effectively monitor arms embargoes;

10. Recognizes the need for Member States to put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons, in order to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, or their diversion to unauthorized recipients;

11. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, in a position to do so and where appropriate, to cooperate and share information on suspected traffickers and trafficking routes, suspect financial transactions and brokering activities for, or diversions of, small arms or light weapons, and other information relevant to the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation or misuse of small arms and light weapons, with potentially affected States and with relevant United Nations entities, including experts groups assisting sanctions committees and peacekeeping operations;

12. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to take measures, pursuant to their national laws, to regulate brokering taking place under their jurisdiction for small arms and light weapons, including measures that may require brokers to register or obtain written authorization before engaging in brokering;

13. *Reiterates* that Council-mandated arms embargoes should have clearly established objectives and provisions for regular review of the measures with a view to lifting them when the objectives are met, in accordance with the terms of the applicable Council resolutions, *acknowledges* that when considering a partial or complete termination, suspension or adjustment of an arms embargo the Council should, where applicable, take into account the capacities by the Member State subject to an arms embargo to, inter alia, apply physical security and stockpile management practices, implement marking, record keeping and tracing, develop national export and import control systems, enhance border security, and strengthen judicial institutions and law enforcement capacity and *welcomes* the conduct of assessment missions to evaluate progress by Member States subject to a Council-mandated arms embargoes towards meeting the conditions set by the Council for their termination or adjustment and to provide options and recommendations

regarding United Nations and other technical assistance to these Member States or their regions;

14. *Notes* that where Sanctions Committees are mandated to determine if an exemption to the arms embargo is justified, they could benefit from information on the existing holdings including from the information on small arms and light weapons voluntarily provided to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and self defence and security needs of arms and related materiel by the government, quantities of arms and related materiel received on the basis of previously approved exemptions, conditions of their storage, as well as quantities of arms and related materiel destroyed through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, if applicable, and *encourages* Member States, Expert Groups and the Secretary-General to provide such information, if available and upon request by the relevant Sanctions Committee;

15. *Encourages* Sanctions Committees to maintain dialogue on implementation of arms embargoes with Member States, in particular those in the region, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders including by inviting them to meet with the Committee and holding by the Chair of open briefings for all interested Member States;

16. *Encourages* Member States to better understand the impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on women and children, through, inter alia, strengthening the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age and developing appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria;

17. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to take into consideration the specific impact of conflict and post-conflict environments on women's security, mobility, economic activity and opportunities, to mitigate the risk of women from becoming active players in the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons;

18. *Urges* Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, to take further measures to facilitate women's full and meaningful participation in all policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat and eradicate the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and in that regard, *encourages* empowering women, including through capacity building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of efforts related to the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and *calls upon* all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and justice and security sector reform efforts to take into account the particular needs of women and children associated with armed forces and armed groups, with the participation of women, and to provide for their full access to these programmes inter alia, through consultation with civil society, including women's organizations, as appropriate;

19. *Reaffirms* its decision that States shall eliminate the supply of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, to terrorists, as well as its calls for States to find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information regarding trafficking in arms, and to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of preventing the illicit transfers and sales of weapons and ammunition, including small arms and light weapons, to armed groups and criminal networks that target civilians and civilian objects and *underlines* that such transfers could exacerbate conflict or facilitate the commitment of serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of human rights;

21. *Urges* States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible and encourages States, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations that are in a position to do so to render assistance in capacity-building to enable States Parties to fulfil and implement the Treaty's obligations;

22. *Recognizes* that improving national implementation of Council-mandated arms embargoes and mandating United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant Council-mandated entities to assist in building national and regional capacities by States, in particular related to transfer control systems, physical security and stockpile management, record-keeping and preventing diversion of small arms and light weapons and related materiel to illicit markets, may contribute to a more effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty by the States Parties;

23. *Notes* that implementation of national reporting provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty by the States Parties can contribute to increased transparency of small arms and light weapons transfers and could inform the United Nations activities related to countering the illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons;

24. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to and to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, including the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunitions;

25. *Stresses* the need for full and effective implementation by States at the national, regional and international levels, of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in particular, paying special attention to applying measures contained therein on the prevention of the diversion of small arms and light weapons, in order to make real progress in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports and briefings to the Council on country-specific situations, more comprehensive and detailed information and recommendations relating to the impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including information specific to such impact on refugees, internally displaced persons, women, children and other vulnerable groups;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information and recommendations regarding the impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on the protection of

civilians in armed conflict as a sub-item in his next reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict;

28. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to direct any relevant United Nations agencies operating in a State or region in relation to which the Council maintains an arms embargo provide the utmost assistance to the work of relevant sanctions committees, experts groups and other relevant United Nations entities in the implementation and compliance monitoring of that arms embargo, and *requests* the Secretary-General to examine and present, in his next report on small arms and light weapons, best practices and arrangements that could be used by the United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant Council-mandated entities to guide the implementation of their mandated tasks on the implementation and compliance monitoring of arms embargoes and the provision of assistance and expertise to host States, sanctions committees and experts groups;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his annual reports on children and armed conflict as well as in his country-specific reports on children and armed conflict relevant information and recommendations regarding the impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on children, to the extent consistent within the existing mandates;

30. *Encourages* the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (*2011*) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, within their existing mandates and in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to focus on the threats posed by accessibility of weapons used by individuals and entities associated with al-Qaida and the supply and trafficking of weapons to them and *requests* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to include in its next regular report to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) information on such threats and to provide recommendations for actions to enhance the response to such threats;

31. *Encourages* the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), within their existing mandates and in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to focus on Member States' capacities and needs to address the threats posed by accessibility of weapons used by terrorists as well as to counter the supply and trafficking of weapons to terrorists and *requests* the CTED to report within the existing reporting framework to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on gaps in such capacities, and to provide concrete plans to facilitate technical assistance for strengthening Member States' capacities and to provide recommendations for actions to enhance response to such threats;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Council on a biennial basis a report on small arms and light weapons, including on the implementation of this resolution, and affirms its intention to consider the report in a timely manner;

33. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/334

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, to transmit herewith a press statement adopted on 30 April 2015 by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 503rd meeting as a follow-up to the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council during its 496th meeting, held on 27 March 2015, on the situation in Western Sahara (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could kindly request the circulation of my letter together with its attachment as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Frederick Musiiwa Makamure **Shava**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Press statement

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 503rd meeting held on 30 April 2015, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the follow-up to communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/1 (CDXCVI) on the situation in Western Sahara adopted at its 496th meeting held on 27 March 2015.

Council welcomed the steps taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the relevant provisions of the aforementioned communiqué, in particular the letter that she addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General on 30 March 2015, transmitting both the report submitted to the 503rd meeting of Council and the communiqué adopted on that occasion, for the purpose of circulation to the members of the Security Council, and requesting that the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, brief the Security Council during its April 2015 meeting on this issue.

Council deeply regretted that the Security Council did not agree to the African Union's request that the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara address it. Council stressed that this situation does not reflect the spirit of the African Union-United Nations strategic partnership, in particular between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council, which must apply to all peace and security issues on the African continent, including Western Sahara.

Council expressed its firm conviction that the settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara, which has been in a stalemate for more than four decades despite the efforts of the successive Personal Envoys of the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions, requires both an enhanced international engagement and a close partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. Council, taking note of the adoption, on 28 April 2015, of resolution 2218 (2015) on Western Sahara, reiterated the African Union's commitment to continue to work towards the early resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara on the basis of international legality and relevant Organization of African Unity/African Union decisions, and to cooperate closely with the United Nations, to mobilize all the support that the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General needs in order to carry out his mandate.

Council expressed its deep appreciation to the African members of the Security Council for their efforts to facilitate an interaction between the Security Council and the African Union Special Envoy, and encouraged them to continue to promote the African position on the question of Western Sahara.

United Nations S/2015/335

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 24 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations and its annex, which contains unfounded allegations against my Government, I wish to reiterate our position as reflected in the letters of 23 March 2015 (S/2015/207), 9 April 2015 (S/2015/249) and 17 April 2015 (S/2015/263), and to categorically reject such allegations that are wilfully fabricated to distract attention from the misguided and failed policies that have led to the current crisis in Yemen.

I also wish to bring your attention to the fact that, according to substantiated reports, including one released by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, hundreds of Yemeni people have been killed as a result of the Saudi-led coalition military campaign, the overwhelming majority of whom were civilians, including women and children. The humanitarian situation is now worse than what could have been imagined a month ago, especially in the light of the recent use of cluster bombs in attacking civilian targets. Due to the gravity of the situation of the war-stricken population and their urgent need of humanitarian assistance, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried by all means to alleviate the suffering of the affected Yemeni people, efforts that have mostly been thwarted by the coalition forces. Indeed, the destruction of the transportation infrastructure of Yemen by the coalition forces has adversely impacted the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed a four-point plan to promote efforts towards ending the ongoing bloodshed and finding a political solution to the crisis. Only through Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned national dialogue, with the participation of the representatives of all political parties and social groups, can we envision a prospect for peace and stability. Iran believes that there could never be a military solution to the conflict and the foreign aggression against Yemeni people has only exacerbated the situation. Tragically, extremist and well-known terrorist groups in the region are the only beneficiaries of the current military campaign against Yemen.

It is unfortunate that the Security Council has thus far failed to stop the military aggression against the innocent Yemeni people. Likewise, it is ironic that the above-mentioned letter by the Permanent Representative of Qatar has fallen short of providing a viable solution to help the Yemeni people, and instead has

maintained a smear campaign to misguide the international community. Such attempts are doomed to failure. We warn against the consequences of the foreign military operations against Yemen. We also reiterate that those who violate international law, including international humanitarian law, should be held accountable for their acts and there should be no room for impunity.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative